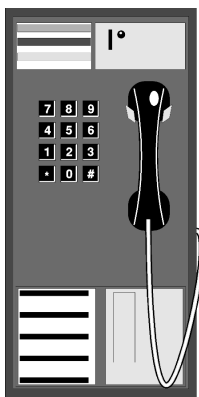


Winter Storm Preparedness

Timely preparation, including structural and non-structural mitigation measures to avoid the impacts of severe winter weather, can avert heavy personal, business, and government expenditures.

Before Severe Weather Arrives



- Know safe routes from home, school, and work to high ground.
- Know how to contact other household members through a common out-of-state contact in the event you have to evacuate and you become separated.
- Teach children how and when to call 911, police, or fire department, and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- Know how to turn off gas, electric power, and water before evacuating.
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors, or employees.
- Keep plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, sandbags, and tools on hand and accessible.
- Make sure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed, or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock, or equipment. Install storm shutters, doors, and windows; clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks; and check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.
- If you think you might want to volunteer in case of a disaster, now is the time to let voluntary organizations or the emergency services office know before the disaster strikes.

This document is IFAS publication DH 1704.

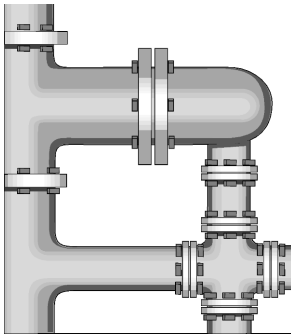
Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Winter Preparedness Safety Tips, Federal Emergency Management Agency and
Winter Storm Preparedness Series, Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Have the following items available at home, and if necessary at your workplace. Store them where you can get to them easily, even in the dark.

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable AM-FM radio to receive emergency information.
- Extra food and water. High-energy food, such as dried fruit, and

food requiring no cooking or refrigeration is best. Have bottled water of at least one gallon per person per day to last at least 3 days.

- Can opener
- Extra supply of medicine and baby items.
- First-aid kit.
- Heating fuel.
- Emergency heating source such as a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc. Learn to use them properly to prevent a fire. Have proper ventilation.
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector. Test units regularly to ensure they are working properly.



Water Pipes

Improperly insulated water pipes can freeze and rupture, releasing up to 250 gallons of water a day. Before cold weather, follow the steps below to prevent such an occurrence.

- Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing—typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces, or in the attic. Insulation made especially for this purpose is available.
- Wrap pipes with UL-approved heat tape.
- Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- Disconnect garden hoses, and shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

Your Car

- Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins. Follow the maintenance schedule in the owner's manual or have your vehicle serviced by a reputable dealer, garage, or mechanic.
- Check your wipers, tires (use snow tires if possible), lights, and fluid levels (radiator, windshield washer, power steering, oil and brakes) regularly.
- Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly.
- Lubricate the door and trunk locks with lock lubricant to prevent them from freezing.
- If necessary, replace existing oil with a winter-grade oil or the SAE 10w/30 weight variety.

Keep the following items in your car during the winter. Make sure

you do not leave without them:

- Blankets, sleeping bags.
- High-calorie, non-perishable food.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Knife.
- Extra clothing to keep dry.
- A large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes.
- A smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water.
- A sack of sand (or cat litter) for generating traction under wheels.
- Shovel.
- Windshield scraper and brush.
- Tool kit.
- Tow rope.
- Booster cables.
- Water container.
- Compass.
- Road maps.
- Brightly colored (preferably red) cloth to tie to antenna or door in case of becoming stranded.
- Necessary medications.